

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for restricting access to electronic books displayed on a viewer, comprising:

receiving and updating directory data of the electronic books in a library unit;

displaying an identification or title of an electronic book on a viewer;

receiving identification information from a user;

receiving information on whether the electronic book contains a restriction based on content, a rating, an associated access level, a page order based restriction, a time based restriction and if the electronic book contains at least one restriction, on whether the restriction applies to the identified user;

~~receiving information relating to access to the electronic book by potential users and further relating to content of the electronic book; and~~

restricting access to the electronic book based upon the information.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the restricting step includes restricting the access based upon a rating assigned to the electronic book, wherein the rating can be assigned to the electronic book by a publisher at an operation center and by a user.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the restricting step includes permitting viewing of text within the electronic book and permitting no viewing of images within the electronic book.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising
receiving a restriction on selected content from a user, wherein the content
includes at least one of an image, text, a page, and a section of the electronic book;
saving a first restricted version of the electronic book in the library unit including
the original format of the electronic book;
creating a second unrestricted version of the electronic book by deleting the
selected content; and
saving the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in the library unit
~~wherein the restricting step includes restricting access to particular portions of the~~
~~electronic book based upon the information.~~

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 4, further comprising
inserting a cross-reference to the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in a
header portion of the first restricted version of the electronic book 1; wherein the
~~receiving step includes receiving standard ratings relating to the access to the electronic~~
~~books.~~

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 5, further comprising
inserting a cross-reference to the first restricted version of the electronic book in a
header portion of the second unrestricted version of the electronic book 1, wherein the
~~restricting step includes permitting viewing of only selected portions of the electronic~~
~~book.~~

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the restricting step includes permitting viewing of only selected pages of the electronic book.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the restricting step includes permitting viewing of no portion of the electronic book.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the restricting step includes permitting unlimited access to the electronic book.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A method for restricting access to electronic books displayed on a viewer, comprising:

receiving and updating directory data of the electronic books in a library unit;

displaying an identification or title of an electronic book on a viewer;

receiving a restriction on selected content from a user, wherein the content includes at least one of an image, text, a page, and a section of the electronic book;

saving a first restricted version of the electronic book in the library unit including the original format of the electronic book;

creating a second unrestricted version of the electronic book by deleting the selected content;

saving the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in the library unit

receiving information relating to access to the electronic book by potential users and further relating to an identification of potential users; and

restricting access to the electronic book based upon the information.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 10, further comprising inserting a cross reference between the first restricted version and the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in at least one of the first restricted version and the second unrestricted version of the electronic book ~~wherein the restricting step includes permitting viewing of no portion of the electronic book.~~

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A method for permitting a user to restrict access to a plurality of stored electronic books for display on a viewer, comprising:

storing and indexing a plurality of electronic books in a library unit;
displaying a directory of the plurality of electronic books on a viewer;
permitting a particular user to

assign a rating to each of the electronic books, the ratings being related to content of the electronic books;

create unrestricted versions of electronic books to which the user has restricted access by deleting restricted portions of the electronic book;

assign a page order based restriction to each of the electronic books; and

assign a time based restriction to each of the electronic books, wherein each page of the electronic book must be displayed for a predetermined period of time;
and

restricting access by other users to the electronic books based upon the assigned ratings.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 12; wherein the permitting step includes permitting the user to assign to each of the electronic books a particular rating within a range of ratings.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13, wherein the restricting step includes selectively permitting access to the electronic books based upon the ratings within the range of ratings.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 12, further including requiring the particular user to enter a password in order to assign the ratings.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein the permitting step includes permitting a default user to assign the rating.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A method for permitting a user to restrict access to a stored electronic book for display on a viewer, comprising:

storing and indexing an electronic book in a library unit;

displaying a directory having the stored electronic book on a viewer;

permitting a particular user to select portions of the electronic book for use in

restricting access to a content of the electronic book; [[and]]

restricting access by other users to the content of the electronic book based upon the particular user's selected portions;

automatically creating a second unrestricted version of the electronic book by deleting the selected portions of the electronic book; and
saving the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in the library unit.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): A method for controlling access to electronic books displayed on a viewer, comprising:

displaying a portion of an electronic book on a viewer, the electronic book having a series of pages arranged in a particular order;

receiving information relating to access of the electronic book by potential users;
and

permitting, based upon the information, viewing of the pages only in the particular order.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The method of claim 18, wherein the permitting step includes permitting viewing of the pages only in sequential order.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The method of claim 18, wherein the permitting step includes permitting viewing of the pages based upon a particular time period of viewing at least one of the pages.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The method of claim 18, wherein the permitting step includes permitting viewing of the pages based upon user-entered information.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): A method for controlling access to an electronic book displayed on a viewer, comprising:

displaying a portion of an electronic book on a viewer, the electronic book having a series of pages arranged in a particular order and each of the pages having a plurality of sections;

receiving information relating to access of the electronic book by a user; and

permitting, based upon the information, viewing of the pages only in the particular order and permitting the user to view a next page within the particular order only upon selection of the sections on each page in an order assigned to each page.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A method for controlling access to an electronic book displayed on a viewer, comprising:

storing and indexing an electronic book in a library unit;

displaying a directory having the stored electronic book on a viewer;

receiving information relating to a viewer mode for displaying the electronic book on the viewer; and

restricting access to a content of the electronic book based upon the viewer mode.

Claim 24 (original): The method of claim 23, wherein:

the receiving step includes receiving information relating to access levels concerning permitted access of potential users to the content and relating to a rating for the electronic book; and

the restricting step includes restricting the access to the content based upon the information and the viewer mode.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for restricting access to electronic books, comprising:

a library unit for storing and indexing the electronic books;

a display that displays an index of the electronic books having an identification or title of an electronic book;

a receiving module that receives identification information from a user and receives information on whether the electronic book contains a restriction based on content, a rating, an associated access level, a page order based restriction, a time based restriction and if the electronic book contains at least one restriction, on whether the restriction applies to the identified user relating to access to the electronic book by potential users and further relating to content of the electronic book; and

a restricting module that restricts access to the electronic book based upon the information.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a rating access module that restricts the access based upon a rating assigned to the electronic book, wherein the rating can be assigned to the electronic book at an operations center by a publisher and by a user.

Claim 27 (original): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a permitting module that permits viewing of text within the electronic book and permits no viewing of images within the electronic book.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a book sections access module that restricts access to particular portions of the electronic book based upon the information and an unrestricted version module that creates a second, unrestricted version of the electronic book by deleting the particular portions to which access is restricted and saves the second unrestricted version in the library unit.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a cross reference section that inserts a cross reference to the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in a header portion of a first version of the electronic book to portions of which access is restricted ~~receiving module includes a module that receives standard ratings relating to the access to the electronic books.~~

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the cross reference sections inserts a cross reference to the first version of the electronic book in a header portion of the second unrestricted electronic book ~~restricting module includes a selected viewing module that permits viewing of only selected portions of the electronic book.~~

Claim 31 (original): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a module that permits viewing of only selected pages of the electronic book.

Claim 32 (original): The apparatus of claim 25; wherein the restricting module includes a module that permits viewing of no portion of the electronic book.

Claim 33 (original): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a module that permits unlimited access to the electronic book.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for restricting access to electronic books, comprising:

a library unit for storing and indexing the electronic books;

a display that displays an index of the electronic books having an identification or title of an electronic book;

a restriction receiving module that receives a restriction on selected content of the electronic book from a user, saves a first restricted version of the electronic book in the original format, creates a second unrestricted version of the electronic book by deleting the selected content, and saves the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in the library unit;

an information receiving module that receives information relating to access to the electronic book by potential users and further relating to an identification of potential users; and

a restricting module that restricts access to the electronic book based upon the information.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the restricting module includes a cross reference section that inserts a cross reference between the first restricted version and the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in at least one of the first restricted version and the second unrestricted version of the electronic book ~~module that permits viewing of no portion of the electronic book.~~

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for permitting a user to restrict access to a plurality of stored electronic books for display, comprising:

a memory that stores and indexes a plurality of electronic books;

a display that displays an index of the electronic books;

a permitting module that permits a particular user to

assign a rating to each of the electronic books, the ratings being related to content of the electronic books;

create unrestricted versions of electronic books to which the user has restricted access by deleting restricted portions of the electronic book;

assign a page order based restriction to each of the electronic books

assign a time based restriction to each of the electronic books, wherein each page of the electronic book must be displayed for a predetermined period of time;

and

a restricting module that restricts access by other users to the electronic books based upon the assigned ratings.

Claim 37 (original): The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the permitting module includes a module that permits the user to assign to each of the electronic books a particular rating within a range of ratings.

Claim 38 (original): The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the restricting module includes a selective permitting module that selectively permits access to the electronic books based upon the ratings within the range of ratings.

Claim 39 (original): The apparatus of claim 36, further including a password module that requires the particular user to enter a password in order to assign the ratings.

Claim 40 (original): The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the permitting module includes a rating module that permits a default user to assign the rating.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for permitting a user to restrict access to a stored electronic book for display, comprising:

a storing module that stores and indexes an electronic book;

a display unit for displaying an index having the electronic book;

a permitting module that permits a particular user to select portions of the electronic book for use in restricting access to a content of the electronic book; and

a restricting module that restricts access by other users to the content of the electronic book based upon the particular user's selected portions; and

an unrestricted version creation module that automatically creates a second, unrestricted version of the electronic book by deleting the user's selected portions and saves the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in the library unit.

Claim 42 (withdrawn): An apparatus for controlling access to electronic books displayed on a viewer, comprising:

a display that displays a portion of an electronic book on a viewer, the electronic book having a series of pages arranged in a particular order;

a receiving module that receives information relating to access of the electronic book by potential users; and

a permitting module that permits, based upon the information, viewing of the pages only in the particular order.

Claim 43 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the permitting module includes a module that permits viewing of the pages only in sequential order.

Claim 44 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the permitting module includes a module that permits viewing of the pages based upon a particular time period of viewing at least one of the pages.

Claim 45 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the permitting module includes a viewing module that permits viewing of the pages based upon user-entered information.

Claim 46 (withdrawn): An apparatus for controlling access to an electronic book displayed on a viewer, comprising:

- a display that displays a portion of an electronic book on a viewer, the electronic book having a series of pages arranged in a particular order and each of the pages having a plurality of sections;

- a receiving module that receives information relating to access of the electronic book by a user; and

- a viewing module that permits, based upon the information, viewing of the pages only in the particular order and permitting the user to view a next page within the particular order only upon selection of the sections on each page in an order assigned to each page.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): An apparatus for controlling access to an electronic book, comprising:

- a library unit for storing and indexing the electronic book;

- a display that displays an index having the electronic book;

- a receiving module that receives information relating to a viewer mode for displaying the electronic book on the viewer; and

a restricting module that restricts access to a content of the electronic book based upon the viewer mode.

Claim 48 (original): The apparatus of claim 47, wherein:

the receiving module includes an access module that receives information relating to access levels concerning permitted access of potential users to the content and relating to a rating for the electronic book; and

the restricting module includes a module that restricts the access to the content based upon the information and the viewer mode.

Claim 49 (original): The apparatus of claim 47, wherein the access level information is included in a header of the electronic book.

Claim 50 (Currently Amended): A method for electronically displaying a page of an electronic book on a viewer and permitting a user to restrict content of the electronic book, comprising:

storing the electronic book in a library unit;

indexing the electronic book within an index of the library unit;

displaying a screen with the index having the electronic book on a viewer;

displaying within the screen a page of an electronic book, the page including at least a portion of content of the electronic book;

permitting a user to identify at least a portion of the content displayed within the screen; [[and]]

displaying a section within the screen for permitting the user to request restriction of the identified content;

storing a first restricted version of the electronic book including a restriction based on the identified content;

creating a second unrestricted version of the electronic book by deleting the identified content; and

saving the second unrestricted version of the electronic book in the library unit.

Claim 51 (Currently Amended): A screen for use in electronically displaying a page of an electronic book on a viewer and permitting a user to restrict content of the electronic book, comprising:

a library unit for storing the electronic book;

an index for indexing the electronic book;

a screen with the index having the electronic book for display on a viewer;

a section within the screen for displaying a page of an electronic book, the page including at least a portion of content of the electronic book and a section permitting a user to identify at least a portion of the content displayed within the screen; [[and]]

a restrict section within the screen for permitting the user to request restriction of the identified content;

a create an unrestricted version section within the screen for permitting the user to create a second, unrestricted version of the electronic book by deleting the identified content and saving the second unrestricted version in the library unit.

Claim 52 (Previously Presented): A method for electronically displaying a screen on a viewer for receiving access levels and a viewer mode relating to display of electronic books on the viewer, comprising:

storing the electronic books in a library unit;

indexing the electronic books within an index of the library unit;

displaying a screen with the index of the electronic books on a viewer for displaying electronic books;

displaying a name section within the screen for identifying a potential user of the viewer;

displaying an access level section within the screen for permitting entry of an access level for the user, the access level being used for restricting access to the electronic books by the user; and

displaying a viewer mode section within the screen for receiving entry of a viewer mode, the viewer mode being used for determining a type of information used to restrict access to the electronic books.

Claim 53 (Previously Presented): A screen for use in electronically displaying a screen on a viewer for receiving access levels and a viewer mode relating to display of electronic books on the viewer, comprising:

a library unit for storing the electronic books;

an index for indexing the electronic books within the library unit;

a screen for display on a viewer for use in displaying the index of the electronic books;

a name section within the screen for identifying a potential user of the viewer;

an access level section within the screen for permitting entry of an access level for the user, the access level being used for restricting access to the electronic books by the user; and

a viewer mode section within the screen for receiving entry of a viewer mode, the viewer mode being used for determining a type of information used to restrict access to the electronic books.